

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5131

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1413

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, RO

SUBJ: ROMANIAN FINE ARTS EXHIBIT

REF: STATE 070206

1. SUMMARY: PROBLEM OF INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION COSTS FOR ROMANIAN FINE ARTS EXHIBIT DISCUSSED HERE IN DETAIL APRIL 16 AS PER INSTRUCTIONS AND TALKING POINTS CONVEYED REFTEL; COUNCIL APPRECIATES FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE BY U. S. AND IS READY TO IMPLEMENT SOLUTION CONTAINING MAIN ELEMENTS U. S. PROPOSAL; AT SAME TIME, COUNCIL REQUESTS THAT ISSUE BE TREATED UNDER VI-2 OF AGREEMENT RATHER THAN VI-1, FORMULA WHICH EMBASSY ITSELF NOW FAVORS; EMBASSY SEEKS EARLY WASHINGTON AUTHORIZATION PROCEED WITH THAT FORMULA. END SUMMARY.

2. CONTENTS REFTEL TAKEN UP IN DETAIL WITH COUNCIL FOR SOCIALIST CULTURE AND EDUCATION DURING PROTRACTED DISCUSSIONS APRIL 16 (PAO, ILEASA). SOLUTION TO PROBLEM OF INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION COSTS NOW SEEMS VIRTUALLY ASSURED AND, WITH ONE SIGNIFICANT EXCEPTION- WHICH EMBASSY FEELS MAY BE ADVANTAGE FOR U. S. SIDE - WOULD INCORPORATE ALL SUBSTANTIVE POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL. THESE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

A. COUNCIL GRATEFULLY ACCEPTS STIPULATION THAT U. S. AGREEMENT PAY INTERNAL TRANSPORT FOR ROMANIAN FINE ARTS EXHIBIT IS INDEED " ONE- TIME, RECIPROCAL, EXCEPTIONAL" ARRANGEMENT;

B. COUNCIL UNDERSTANDS THAT U. S. ACTION IN THIS CASE CANNOT BE VIEWED AS PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE ACTIVITY IN EXHIBIT FIELD;

C. COUNCIL ENDORSES U. S. POSITION THAT NO RESTRICTIONS

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CAN BE PLACED BY EITHER SIDE ON OTHER'S CHOICE OF EXHIBIT
SUBJECT MATTER.

3. SIGNIFICANT EXCEPTION TO (OR VARIATION OF) SOLUTION PROPOSED
REFTEL IS COUNCIL DESIRE RECONSIDER WHOLE ISSUE IN CONTEXT OF
VI-2 RATHER THAN VI-1. REASON FOR THIS IS GROUNDED IN
CONTINUING COUNCIL PREOCCUPATION WITH " RECIPROCITY" AND ITS
FUNCTIONAL INABILITY EITHER TO COMMIT OTHER ORGANS OF GOR IN
FOREIGN EXHIBIT MATTERS OR TO COMMIT ITSELF TO SPONSORING
PROJECTS IN " NON- ART" CATEGORY.

4. IN PRACTICAL TERMS, THIS MEANS THAT COUNCIL IS NOW LOOKING
AT THE LANGUAGE OF VI-2 AND FINDING IT PECULIARLY APPLICABLE
TO ITS OWN SITUATION (ESPECIALLY THE PART QUOTE NECESSARY
AGGANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE DIRECTLY BETWEEN APPROPRIATE
ORGANIZATIONS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES UNQUOTE) AND IS SAYING " LET
US DO OUR ART EXHIBIT UNDER VI-2 WITH YOU PAYING INTERNAL
TRANSPORT, AND ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS YOU CAN DO AMON CARTER
OR SOME OTHER ART EXHIBIT OF YOUR CHOICE WHOSE INTERNAL TRANS-
PORT WE WILL PAY; AS FOR EXHIBITS UNDER VI-1, YOU CAN CONTINUE
TO DO YOURS AS YOU HAVE IN THE PAST, AND IF THE ROMANIAN SIDE
HAS ANY OF ITS OWN TO PROPOSE, THESE WOULD, LIKE YOURS, BE ON
SENDING- SIDE- PAYS- ALL BASIS."

5. SPECIFICALLY, COUNCIL, IN ADDITION TO THOSE ARRANGEMENTS
SUMMARIZED 2 A- C ABOVE, NOW PREPARED PROVIDE FOLLOWING AS
QUID- PRO- QUO FOR US. S. WILLINGNESS FUND INTERNAL TRANSPORT OF
ROMANIAN FINE ARTS:

A) LOCAL TRANSPORT COSTS IN BUCHAREST (AIRPORT- MUSEUM-
AIRPORT) FOR AMON CARTER EXHIBIT PLUS LOCAL TRANSPORT COSTS
FOR ONE OTHER MULTIPLE- CITY ART EXHIBIT WHICH WE MIGHT WISH
PROPOSE UNDER VI-2 DURING 1973-4;

?. SHOULD WE WISH EXTEND ITINERARY OF AMON CARTER TO
INCLUDE ONE OR TWO PROVINCIAL LOCATIONS IN ADDITION TO
BUCHAREST, COUNCIL WOULD COVER ALL INTERNAL TRANSPORT COSTS
FOR THIS AND WOULD THEN CONSIDER RECIPROCITY PRINCIPLE FULLY
SATISFIED, I. E., INTERNAL TRANSPORT COSTS FOR ANY SECOND
ART EXHIBIT U. S. MIGHT WISH TO MOUNT WOULD BE AT U. S. EXPENSE
(NB. WE PLAN DISCUSS TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY OF EXTENDING
AMON CARTER INTO PROVINCES WHEN CURATOR WILDER VISITS
BUCHAREST LATER THIS WEEK);

C. UNDER EITHER OPTION, COUNCIL WILL ALSO PAY ACCOMPANYING
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U. S. CURATOR COSTS;

D. IN WHAT WE ASSUME COMPORTS WITH PREFERRED WASHINGTON LINE OF ACTION AS PER PARA 2 A REFTEL, COUNCIL AGREEABLE TO MAKING THESE ARRANGEMENTS MATTER OF WRITTEN RECORD VIA EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN COUNCIL AND EMBASSY (FYI. ILEASA TOLD PAO THAT COUNCIL HAD " COME UNDER CRITICISM" FROM ROMANIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON FOR INJUDICIOUS CHOICE OF LANGUAGE IN NOTE VERBALE - " UNCLEAR ARTICLES", ETC. - AND HAD BEEN ADVISED NOT TO USE THIS FORM OF COMMUNICATION IN THE FUTURE).

6. COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION. ON BALANCE EMBASSY BELIEVES TACK OF PURSUING SOLUTION TO PRESENT ROMANIAN EXHIBIT PROBLEMS UNDER VI-2 MAY BE USEFUL AND EVEN INGENIOUS WAY OF FINESSING PRESENT DIFFICULTIES BOTH ON OUR SIDE AND ON THEIRS. FIRST, IT WOULD PREJUDICE NONE OF OUR OPTIONS UNDER VI-1 AND AT SAME TIME IT WOULD PROVIDE COMPENSATORY FISCAL SUPPORT FOR IMPORTANT U. S. ACTIVITIES UNDER VI-2. THIS SEEMS TO US NET GAIN FOR U. S. SIDE WHEN BOTH PROGRAM AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS ARE JOINTLY CONSIDERED, AS OF COURSE THEY SHOULD BE (THEORETICALLY UNDER THIS FORMULA, GOR TOO WOULD PRESERVE OPTIONS UNDER VI-1 AND COULC, SINCE THE FINE ARTS WOULD BE CONSIDERED VI-2 MATERIAL, PROPOSE TWO MAJOR EXHIBITS DURING THE COURSE OF 1973-74; ILEASA HAS TOLD US, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH INITIATIVE WOULD REMAIN EXACTLY THAT, THEORETIC - HE CLAIMS IT VIRTUALLY CERTAIN GOR WILL NOT OR CANNOT MOUNT ANY MORE. IN ANY CASE, EVEN SHOULD SUCH PROPOSALS OCCUR, IT CLEAR THAT GOR WOULD HAVE TO BEAR ALL TRANSPORTATION COSTS). EMBASSY AGREED TO REPORT ABOVE ELEMENTS OF PROPOSED SOLUTION ADDK REFERENDUM A
ND NOW REQUESTS EARLIEST POSSIBLE AUTHORIZATION
PROCEED WITH EXCHANGE OF LETTERS AS OUTLINED PARA 4 D. EMBASSY ANXIOUS CONCLUDE THIS MATTER.

7. RE PARA 2 REFTEL, WE AGREE THAT ISSUE OF " UNCLEAR ARTICLES" IS " SOMEWHAT BOGUS" IN CONNECTION WITH ROMANIAN FINE ARTS MATTER BUT WOULD NOT BE INCLINED MINIMIZE ITS TROUBLING ASPECTS SO FAR AS IMPLEMENTING CONDITIONS IN GENERAL ARE CONCERNED. IN THIS CONNECTION WE READ WITH INTEREST MARCH 9 LEGAL OPINION PREPARED BY L/ECP. LACK OF SPECIFICITY CONCERNING WHO PAYS WHAT IN KEY AREAS OF EXHIBIT ACTIVITY IS UNQUESTIONABLY FACTOR WHICH COULD CONTINUE PROMOTE SOME MISUNDERSTANDING UNDER ARTICLE VI OF PRESENT AGREEMENT, MATTER WE WILL ADDRESS
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IN SEPARATE MESSAGE.
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